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Finance Committee Minutes 03-19-2001

ARLINGTON FINANCE COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF MEETING, March 19, 2001

7:30 PM O'NEILL ROOM COMMUNITY SAFETY BUILDING

ATTENDEES:

| | | | | |
|----------------------|---------------------|-----------------|-------------------|------------------|
| Phelps* | Feinleib | Kocur* | O'Neill | Mahoney* |
| DeCoursey* | Villandry* | Simmons* | Mazmanian* | |
| Tosti* | Foskett* | Deyst* | Ronan* | |
| Scoppettuolo* | Franclemont* | | Olsen* | |
| DuBois* | Howard* | Fanning* | Tosi* | Kneeland* |

*** Indicates present**

VISITORS: Human Rights Commission Members Sheri Baron (Chair), Nancy Sweeney, Christopher Kita,

Members Symmes 21 Committee David Walkinshaw (Chair), Bob Bose, Charlie Foskett, Steve Andrew, Selectmen Charlie Lyons, Diane Mahon, Jack Hurd, Town Counsel John Maher, Town Manager Phil Farrington

MINUTES of 3/14/01 accepted.

ARTICLE 3 (1st Special TM) APPROPRIATION/HARDY SCHOOL: Chair presented spread sheet showing how the \$1.36 million cost growth could be covered by combination of transfer, interest income & reimbursable borrowing.

VOTED \$8.461 million Unanimous.

ARTICLE 3 (2nd Special TM) APPROPRIATION/PEIRCE SCHOOL: Chair reported that best current cost estimate is \$9.208 million or \$1.7 million over last year's estimate. Chair held meeting w/ chairs of Board of Selectmen, Permanent Town Building Committee, Capital Planning Committee and superintendent. Discussed possible overbuilding leading to unnecessary costs. No agreement on meeting of full committees. DuBois reported that town Planner Alan McClennen believes the births in Arlington which have been dropping for the last few years represent a

trend that will continue. Topic to be discussed w/ School Committee on Wed.

ARTICLE 88 APPROPRIATION/THOMPSON & STRATTON SCHOOLS: An additional \$500,000 required for a total of \$800,000.

VOTED to borrow \$500,000 under the debt exclusion vote of 3/98. Unanimous.

BUDGET 8 ASSESSORS: Finances SubCom recommended budget as provided by Director.

VOTED \$269,143 Unanimous

BUDGET 22 NON-CONTRIBUTORY RETIREMENT: Finances SubCom reduced request by eliminating the COLA payback to the State which is no longer required.

VOTED \$387,898 Unanimous

ARTICLE 91 APPROPRIATION RETIREMENT HEALTH CARE TRUST FUND: Again this year the chair recommended paying into this fund the difference between \$500,000 and the current non-contributory retirement cost. The former figure was non-contributory retirement cost when this policy was begun.

VOTED \$112,102 Unanimous

ARTICLE 53 BYLAW AMENDMENT/APPROPRIATION/SUBMISSION OF AMENDMENTS: Board of Selectmen expected to facilitate access to copiers without bylaw change.

VOTED no action. Unanimous

ARTICLE 55 APPROPRIATION/DEED RESTRICTION PEIRCE FIELD: Maher now recommends separating the field house funding from the deed restriction. The field house proposal will take time to jell. Could be ready for a fall Special TM. Action on deed restriction should be taken under Article 2 1st Special TM.

VOTED no action. Unanimous.

ARTICLE 56 APPROPRIATION/CURB EXTENSIONS/TRAFFIC ISLANDS: Funding included in Public Works budget.

VOTED no action. Unanimous

ARTICLE 71 APPROPRIATION/COMMITTEES & COMMISSIONS: No changes requested. Chair proposed level funding.

HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION: Baron reviewed the commission's activities over the past year and provided a handout. Increased level of

activity attributed in part to new staff assistant funded by last year's budget increase.

**VOTED \$24,600 to be distributed as in last year's FinCom report.
Unanimous.**

**ARTICLE 77 LAND ACQUISITION/SYMMES HOSPITAL: Symmes 21
Committee presented reasons to acquire property. Using handout, Foskett
presented a plan showing how a possible use could return funds to town
after 3yrs for assumed purchase price. Walkinshaw stated this plan is
conservative. Bose summarized the benefits to Town. Lyons believes that
Lahey will stay involved in order to continue to receive trust fund income.
Symmes Trust Fund & Sanborn Trust Fund may contribute to purchase.
Maher ready to go on negotiation if override passes. Appraisal expected
3/20.**

VOTED to support the ballot question. Unanimous

COMMITTEE BUSINESS:

**Meetings are scheduled for March 21 (Mugar, School Committee), 24
(budgets), 26 (budgets), 28 (O'Connor ARTICLE 29); and April 9, 12, 14 -- all
in the Bob O'Neill Room at the Community Safety Bldg, except 9 a.m. Sat
3/24 and 4/14 in Town Hall Hearing Room.**

Peter B. Howard, Secretary